



Town of Concord, Massachusetts
22 Monument Square, Concord, MA 01742

BFRTAC Meeting Minutes 04-07-16

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee

April 7, 2016, 7PM

Harvey Wheeler Community Center, Clock Tower Conference Room

Meeting minutes from April 7, 2016

Attendees: Kent Carlson, Judy LaRocca, Judy Perrin, Gretchen Roorbach, Mark Hanson, Jim Lyon

In attendance: Members from the public: Marcia Rasmussen

Recorder: Judy Perrin

Call to order: 7:04 pm

- Review Minutes

March 3, 2016 – Approved as amended.

- Updates from Marcia Rasmussen

- **Phase 2A Update:** the Town of Acton has posted a blog about construction activity along Phase 2A at <http://www.acton-ma.gov/Blog.aspx?CID=10>. February activity included: installation of erosion control measures, which are approximately 75% complete. Remaining erosion control, silt fence and compost filter tubes are to be installed prior to construction commencement. Additionally, granite backwalls at six railroad bridges were being removed to prepare for bridge deck construction.

Natural Resources Director and Marcia sent the following information to White Pond Advisory Committee Chair Jerry Frenkil regarding the video recently posted about Acton BFRT work:

“As you are probably aware, a video of work along the BFRT showing extensive tree removal in Acton was recently posted to the White Pond Google Groups, which shows some of the tree removal beyond the erosion control limits. This work is in the location of a new pedestrian bridge over Route 2A and so the footprint of work is necessarily larger to accommodate the bridge work. We have discussed the work with the Conservation Agent in Acton, and have also reassured people who have called into the office that all tree work in Concord will be reviewed in the field in advance of any work being implemented.

The Natural Resources Commission required that an Environmental Monitor be assigned to BFRT project for Phase 2C. Before any work begins, the Contractor is required to meet with Natural Resources staff, the Environmental Monitor, and MassDOT to review erosion controls, tree clearing, grubbing and thinning, and invasive species removal and replanting. There will be substantial tree removal of invasive Norway maples between Main Street and the Assabet crossing that may be more extensive than in other locations in Concord, which was reviewed with abutters in December 2015; this area will be replanted with native trees and shrubs following construction. The tree removal for the Nashoba bridge work and the Powder Mill crossing will not be as extensive as that in Acton for the bridge crossing and all work will be fully evaluated with the Contractor prior to the start of construction.”

- **Phase 2B Update:** MassDOT Project Manager Sreelatha Allam provided the 25% design plans to the Town, which have been posted on the BFRT Advisory Committee website. The GPI project team has reviewed the 25% design plan for Phase 2B in context with the 100% design plan for Phase 2C and noted inconsistencies, which have been brought to the attention of MassDOT Project Managers Sreelatha Allam and David Shedd. These inconsistencies include: “the Project End limit is beyond the starting location of Phase 2C. There is an overlap of approximately 600’ between the two projects. Phase 2C also proposes to re-align the access drive for the prison to the east of Comm. Ave and a parking lot to the west of Comm. Ave. ~Neither of these elements are shown in the Phase 2B plans. Both sets of plans propose a Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon

at the trail crossing of Comm. Ave.” David Shedd responded that Phase 2C should dictate the limits of work. Phase 2B needs to tie into Phase 2A and 2C horizontally and vertically.

The letter to MassDOT Executive Director of Transportation Planning David Mohler requesting appropriation of funds from prior Transportation Bond Bills for the next phase of design for BFRT 2B has been signed by the Concord Select Board Chair and has been delivered to the Acton Town Manager. Marcia is waiting for the letter to be signed by the Chair of the Acton Board of Selectmen.

c) Phase 2C Update:

1. Right-of-way (ROW) Process - Planning Division staff met with MassDOT R.O.W. Transportation Planner and Community Compliance Officer Linda Walsh on March 25th to review the process and discuss next steps. I have received one proposal from the first appraiser and I am expecting another proposal from the second appraiser this week. Letters have not yet been sent to the eighteen property owners, but are expected to be sent this week. Deed information has been collected for 15 of the 18 property owners; additional work is needed to identify the correct deed information.

Marcia will also be reaching out to the MBTA to discuss the easement over the Fitchburg commuter rail line and the easement over the West Concord Depot property for the Rail Trail.

2. Three articles on 2016 Town Meeting Warrant – Marcia prepared the three presentations for Town Meeting, which will likely be heard on April 6th; the Town Manager will be presenting these articles. Capital funding of an additional \$250,000; Land Acquisition in accordance with the federal highway requirements that owners be provided fair market value; and, authorization of the Select Board to establish easements over town land for rail trail purposes.

3. Historic Interpretive Signs – BFRT Advisory Committee **needs to finalize the locations and design** of the proposed Historic Interpretive Signs **at its April Meeting** so they can be submitted to MassDOT Historic Resources group for review.

4. Legislation filed to transfer DOC land to the Town – Senator Barrett’s office reported that the legislation to transfer a small portion of Mass. DOC land on Commonwealth Ave. to the Town of Concord for construction of a small parking area and associated support for the BFRT was discussed in committee on March 29th. Town will be responsible for hiring surveyor to prepare Approval Not Required (ANR) plan for recording transfer of land; Marcia has requested a proposal from GPI to prepare this plan.

5. Received list of abutting properties that are encroaching on the ROW: GPI compiled a list of existing readily visible ROW encroachments. There are 27 properties identified; the majority of these encroachments will not interfere with construction of the project. Linda Walsh thought that the MassDOT Rail Division would be following up by sending letters to abutting owners who were encroaching on the state’s land and suggested that Marcia follow up with Chalita Belfield and Claire Connelly at MassDOT Real Estate and Rail Divisions.

3. Additional items discussed:

a) Historic Artifact Proposed Signage – Review current designs. Remove interpretive sign near rest area (Sheet 40, Station 58) that was added by GPI. Sheet 41 Historic marker 43 – granite sign. Photo updates to signs were discussed. Proposed historic signage was reviewed and confirmed to the numbered plan by the committee. Signs that are in area past Powder Mill are not needed until that section is constructed.

b) Phase 2C 100% drawings – Review at next meeting in May. Kent will send information to the group from Mass DOT project page. Planned to be advertised for construction in July 2016.

c) Phase 2B 25% design public hearing may take place in late July. Scheduled to start construction Spring 2019. Phase 2B 25% design drawings to be reviewed at May meeting.

d) BFRTAC – Elect officers in May. Judy L. will be ending her term after May.

e) April 28th – West Concord Open House at Harvey Wheeler – Arts & Culture.

Member Comments / Committee Liaisons / Correspondence

- White Pond Advisory Committee (Jim Lyon) – No meeting this past month.
- WPAC/BFRTAC subcommittee (Jim Lyon) – No meeting this past month.
- Trails Committee (Gretchen Roorbach) – They want to know BFRTAC thoughts about shifting the trail. Gretchen followed up with the Trails committee.
- West Concord Advisory Committee (Kent Carlson) – No meeting.

- Concord Housing & Development Committee (Judy Perrin) – May 17th – Open Space / Concord Junction workshop and open house – at Harvey Wheeler
- Historical Commission (Mark Hanson) – Reviewed Historical signs.

Next committee meeting: May 5, 2016 7:00 pm at Harvey Wheeler Community Center

Meeting Adjourned: 8:07 PM